

The Rise of Fascism: 1930s

- fascism:

- extremist right-wing authoritarian political systems
 - opposed to democracy
 - controlled EVERY aspect of life
 - can be either *totalitarian* or *nationalist*
 - best examples are Nazi Germany, Italy under Mussolini, and even Russia under Stalin
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- different parts of the world dealt with their depressions differently than here

- the quickest way to jump-start an economy is for the government to take total control of everything, and force people in the right direction – **fascism!**

➤ the key to it was big industrial gains

- Stalin enslaved the Russian people and his Cheka controlled them using fear

- Uncle Joe was not a nice man
- murdered tens of thousands of his own people

- Il Duce, Benito Mussolini also took control of Italy

- was highly nationalistic
- military and police maintained control
- however, he was really a joke
 - example: fascism was all about speed and efficiency to Mussolini – to keep his navy fast, he neglected to put guns and armour on the boats
 - took the British one afternoon to sink 90% of the Italian navy 😊

- Nazi Germany was fascist - an extreme never before seen
- leader was Adolf Hitler – an art school drop out who turned into a anti-Semite/military nut
- Germany was in trouble after WWI
 - its economy was in shambles – worthless money!
 - was forced to pay for the war (“War Guilt Clause”)

- Hitler came to power in 1933 and was determined to do three things:
 1. Get Germany out of depression
 2. Get revenge and succeed where the Kaiser failed
 3. Ethnically cleanse Europe

- Hitler defied all previous agreements and treaties
 - occupied land that he was supposed to stay out of
 - stopped paying **reparations**
 - expanded its military
 - abolished all other political parties – “The Night of Long Knives”

- people were afraid:
 - this was looking ugly, real ugly
 - those who fought in WWI did not want the same destruction again – *appeasement* began
 - give Hitler what he wants; maybe he will stop
 - problem: reasonable leaders trying to deal with an unreasonable leader is bound to lead to ruin...
 - he just takes more, and more, and more until the war begins in 1939

→ give into

Leading up to the War...

- Hitler began to take more and more in Europe
 - why did no one stop him early?
 - o people were fascinated with this fanatical leader
 - o people who survived WWI were scared to death that it was going to happen again
 - o nobody wanted to be accused of starting another war
 - nobody stopped him...
 1. 1936 – into the Rhineland: against Versailles
 2. 1936 – Spanish Civil War: practiced blitzkrieg
 3. 1938 – joined with Austria: against Versailles
 4. 1939 – took Czechoslovakia: aggressive!
 - when Hitler took Poland in 1939, Britain declared war
 - secretly, Hitler and Stalin had a non-aggression agreement
 - Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact
 - Russia was not against Germany yet
 - it was Britain, France, Canada, and some former British colonies against the Nazis and their whole regime
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Canada's Response to the Threat of War

- most of Canada was isolationist – WW1 was too recent...
- Canada rejected thousands of Jewish refugees
 - the *St. Louis* was turned away – people went back to eventually die in Germany
- however, the threat of Hitler was great enough to push Canada into conflict again